

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

[0047] A forward error correction system comprises a forward error correction (FEC) module and a transmission module. The FEC module is configured to define a plurality of FEC code words, and the transmission module is configured to transmit the FEC code words to a remote receiving unit via a plurality of communication connections. The transmission module is further configured to ensure that characters of each of the FEC code words are transmitted across different ones of the communication connections.